

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2376 - HB 3464

March 30, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the "T-Span Act of 2004." Specifies that municipalities must require cable companies to provide coverage of state government proceedings on at least one cable channel or network as a requisite for issuing a franchise license; for negotiating any initial franchise agreement, contract, certificate or permit; and for renewing, extending, or reissuing any existing franchise license, agreement, contract, certificate, permit or other authorization provided that the cable system will have 13 or more usable channels. Provides that any municipality operating a cable system shall comply with the programming requirements in the bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds \$100,000

To the extent local governments, municipal electric systems, or utility districts operate a cable system they would experience an increase in expenditures to make a channel on their cable system available for state government proceedings estimated to be not significant. The bill does not specify who would be responsible for producing the state government proceedings for broadcast. To the extent the cable systems are responsible they will experience significant expenditures. As a result, the cost to local governmental entities operating cable systems is estimated to be significant.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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